

RESPONSE

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13-22, 25-27, 30, 31, 38-41, 43, 49-55, 59-61, 63, 64, 72-77, 83-85, 87-90, and 93-96 are pending in the application. Claims 38-41, 49-55, and 59 are allowed. Claims 1, 9, 17, 22, 27, 60, 72, 74, 75, 85, 87, and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Domash (US 5,937,115). Claims 4, 10, 11, 13-16, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 30, 31, 64, 73, 76, 83, 84, 89, and 93-95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domash (US 5,937,115) in view of Domash et. al. (US 6,567,573). Claims 38-41, 43, 49-55, and 59 are allowed. Claims 2, 5-7, 20, 61, 63, 77, 90, and 96 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has elected to cancel claims 1, 60, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, and 90, amend claims 2, 4, 9, 10, 14, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 30, 53, 61, 64, 77, 83, 84, 85, and 87 and keep the remaining claims. Reconsideration and re-examination of pending claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13-22, 25-27, 30, 31, 38-41, 43, 49-55, 59, 61, 63, 64, 77, 83-85, 87-89, 93-96 is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Examiner has allowed claims 38-41, 49-55, and 59. Examiner has not addressed claim 43, which is dependent on allowable claim 38. Thus, the list of allowable claims are claims 38-41, 43, 49-55, and 59.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 5-7, 20, 61, 63, 77, 90, and 96 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 61, and 77 to independent form, amended claim 20 to be dependent on a now allowable base claim (claim 2), unchanged claim 63 as it is dependent on a now allowable base claim (claim 61) and claim 96 as it is dependent on a now allowable base claim (claim 87), and canceled claim 90 by putting the limitations of claim 90 into a now allowable base claim (claim 87).

Remaining claims are now dependent on either allowed base claims or allowable base claims, and are hence allowable.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13-22, 25-27, 30-31, 38-41, 43, 49-55, 59, 61, 63-64, 77, 83-85, 87-89, 93-96 are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that pending claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13-22, 25-27, 30-31, 38-41, 43, 49-55, 59, 61, 63-64, 77, 83-85, 87-89, 93-96 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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